

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Trails sub-committee meeting minutes
November 8, 2017

Attendance: David Ross, Fran Philippe, Chris Northrop, Tim Pifer, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Talmadge, Beth Fenstermacher, Gail Page, Mike Lehman, Robert Erlenwein
Guests: Nicholas Wallner, Liz Durfee Hengen, Leslie Talmadge, Debbie Carley, Chris Carley, Kris Tardiff,

AGENDA

1. Minutes of October's meeting approved with one spelling correction.

2. Community Trail Walks:

10/14/17 Oak Hill Trails led by Gail Page had 12 participants. Weather was perfect.
11/18/17 Oak Hill's "other side" to be led by Fran Philippe on trails starting on Oak Hill Road.
12/9/17 Rob Knight will lead a hike from Diamond Hill Farm on the WEFT going north. (An Eagle Scout has installed a bench on this trail overlooking the beaver pond.)
Gail Page will lead a hike in January 2018, date and location to be announced at next meeting.

3. Trail Proposals:

Although the committee agreed to table discussion of new or fewer trails until we have determined trail criteria, guests were present to speak about a Russell Pond area trail. Liz Durfee Hengen, Debbie and Chris Carley and Nicholas Wallner all spoke in favor of formalizing the already existing trails to this historic recreation area in Concord. In the 1930s Concord developed this area with a lodge, a ski jump and toboggan run. These were abandoned in later years but remnants remain visible. Liz volunteered to create signs designating points of interest. Chris Carley notes that some work is needed at a dam crossing but otherwise, the trail is nearly complete. Ron Klemarczyk cautions that the Water Department will need to have input on this proposed trail.

Rob Talmadge distributed his suggestions for trail criteria. This and the criteria list from the March 2017 trails committee meeting will be the basis for discussion of criteria at the December meeting.

4. Trail Maintenance and Reporting:

Rob Knight notes that the trail volunteers did an excellent job getting out and quickly cleaning up the windstorm damage on all the city trails.

On the Riley Trail a major bridge over a stream is up-ended by a fallen tree and the trail is not usable for now. The weight of the bridge makes it difficult to maneuver. A team of committee members will assist Ron with cutting up the tree that fell.

The Healy and Terrill park trails are residence to a homeless camp.

Ron K. is looking into selling the timber from the many large trees that came down near the start of the Broken Ground trails. Meanwhile, hikers need to work their way around these downed trees. The Orange trail from Portsmouth St. up the powerline is currently along the filled area that Unitil put in during the substation construction. Ron K says this will work until ground water levels rise in the spring. Then it is possible to construct a parallel trail on slightly higher ground. A small bridge will be needed across a stream as the trail turns right to pass under the powerline. Gail Page will reinstall stakes in this area showing orange blazes. Finally, re Broken Ground,

Trail Maintenance and Reporting continued:

it appears the spray paint vandalism has stopped. No action reported as yet by the Police Dept. on the person identified in the surveillance camera.

White Farm trails do not have stewards but Fran P will check them.

Trash continues to collect at the end of Electric Ave. Chris N. suggests that the existing gate be moved to prevent people from driving to that area.

Trash is also a big problem at the roadside parking area for Contoocook River Trails on Broad Cove Road.

We might want to move the cameras now at Broken Ground to this area to catch the trash dumpers.

Moving the Murray Bluff trail at Oak Hill is delayed by lack of time from the intern. Ron K. plans to handle it himself before snowfall.

A footbridge at Sewalls Falls has been repaired.

Someone has flagged an illegitimate trail from the Swope-Winant Connector to a private property and set up a campsite.

Trail work list update: Work for the future includes repair/replace the bridge on the Canal Trail at Locke Rd.(spring), add information to the now empty kiosk at Locke Rd., tighten the loose kiosk at Curtisville Trail. Any blazing will wait until spring. Fran and another volunteer will install 4x4 posts at junctions in Broken Ground and put up directional signs.

5. Update on signs:

We have received arrow signs from the prison workshop. We should have the specific trail name signs by the next meeting. These are intended for Broken Ground.

6. Trail Steward for Weir Rd/Boscawen Town Forest:

Ann Rice has stated her willingness to take this on. Tim Pifer and/or Fran Philippe will contact her.

7. Tim P. reminds us that hunting season is open and hunting is allowed on all City trails except Winant. We recommend the city post specific signs at Winant regarding hunting being prohibited. Any property that is not posted "no hunting" is open for hunting. ***Wear orange clothing!***

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Page, recording secretary